Appln. No.: 09/885,820

Amendment Dated February 16, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 21, 2003

<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u> This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. - 9. (Cancelled)

- 10. (Currently Amended) An arterial graft device for reinforcing bifurcated arteries having a distal main artery portion and two proximal legs extending from a bifurcation, the arterial graft device comprising a body adapted for at least partial placement in the main artery portion and a separate elongated segment, the body including: (a) an integral elongated segment extending proximally from a bifurcated juncture to a first of the two legs to internally connect the main artery portion with the first leg; and (b) a second segment extending proximally from the bifurcated juncture towards the second leg and comprising:
 - (i) a first diameter at said bifurcated juncture
 - (ii) a connecting portion comprising a second diameter, smaller than said first diameter, proximal said first diameter and adapted to mate with said separate elongated segment, and
 - (iii) a guide wire and second segment receiving portion, proximal said connecting portion and of larger diameter than said connecting portion, and a conical transition section between said connecting portion and said larger diameter.curved connecting portion; (ii) a transition portion of proximally increasing diameter; and (iii) a third portion having a greater diameter than the transition portion, the second segment for receiving and guiding a catheter guidewire inserted along the second leg and for guiding the separate elongated segment of the graft device for connection with the second segment.
- 11. (Previously Presented) The graft device of claim 10 further comprising an expandable retaining device to affix the body to the main artery portion.
- 12. (Previously Presented) The graft device of claim 10, wherein the separate elongated segment further comprises an axially extended and entirely circumferentially extended outer connecting surface adapted to bear upon the connecting portion of the body.
- 13. (Previously Presented) The graft device of claim 10, wherein the second segment is formed by a foldable structure, which can be compressed and expanded and inserted together with the body within a catheter sheath.
- 14. (Previously Presented) The graft device of claim 10, wherein the second segment and the body comprise a unitary structure of the same material.
- 15. (Previously Presented) The graft device according to claim 14, wherein the material is selected from the group comprising plastic and metal and the device is expandable by any of the following mechanisms: balloon expansion, thermal memory, elasticity, spring-loaded elasticity, and autoexpansion.
- 16. (Previously Presented) The graft device according to claim 14, wherein the material is polyethylene or polytetrafluoroethylene.

BSI-340US1

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17. (Previously Presented) The graft device according to claim 10, wherein the graft device forms a bifurcated aortic endoluminal graft adapted for being disposed within the infrarenal aorta and the iliac arteries, the integral elongated segment extending into a first iliac artery and the second segment extending in the aorta towards a second iliac artery.

- 18. (Previously Presented) An arterial graft device for reinforcing bifurcated arteries having a distal main artery portion and two proximal legs extending from a bifurcation, the arterial graft device comprising a body adapted for at least partial placement in the main artery portion and a separate elongated segment, the body including: (a) an integral elongated segment extending proximally from a bifurcated juncture to a first of the two legs to internally connect the main artery portion with the first leg; and (b) a second segment having a connecting opening and extending towards the second leg and having a connecting surface of distally increasing diameter as the second segment extends from the connecting opening towards the bifurcated juncture and of proximally increasing diameter as the second segment extends from the connecting opening towards the second leg for receiving and guiding a catheter guidewire inserted along the second leg and for guiding the separate elongated segment of the graft device for connection with the second segment.
- 19. (Previously Presented) The graft device of claim 18 further comprising an expandable retaining device to affix the body to the main artery portion.
- 20. (Previously Presented) The graft device of claim 18, wherein the separate elongated segment further comprises an axially extended and entirely circumferentially extended outer connecting surface adapted to bear upon the connecting surface of the body.
- 21. (Previously Presented) The graft device of claim 18, wherein the second segment is formed by a foldable structure, which can be compressed and expanded and inserted together with the body within a catheter sheath.
- 22. (Previously Presented) The graft device of claim 18, wherein the second segment and the body comprise a unitary structure of the same material.
- 23. (Previously Presented) The graft device according to claim 22, wherein the material is selected from the group comprising plastic and metal and the device is expandable by any of the following mechanisms: balloon expansion, thermal memory, elasticity, spring-loaded elasticity, and autoexpansion.
- 24. (Previously Presented) The graft device according to claim 22, wherein the material is polyethylene or polytetrafluoroethylene.
- 25. (Previously Presented) The graft device according to claim 18, wherein the graft device forms a bifurcated aortic endoluminal graft adapted for being disposed within the infrarenal aorta and the iliac arteries, the integral elongated segment extending into a first iliac artery and the second segment extending in the aorta towards a second iliac artery.